

In addition to the Drug Analysis Laboratory in Jamaica Plain there is a smaller DPH Drug Laboratory located on the campus of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

or

The Department of Public Health Drug Analysis Laboratory is housed at two locations, the main laboratory in Jamaica Plain and a smaller laboratory located on the campus of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

The Amherst Laboratory serves the municipal police departments of Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, Berkshire Counties and some portions of Worcester County. The lab was originally opened in Westfield after World War II and moved to Amherst when the Western Massachusetts Public Health Center was built with a federal grant. The grant stipulated that the building would be shared by state and university public health programs. In the 1980s space limitations and departmental reorganization resulted some DPH programs moving out of the Public Health Center to an office building in Northampton. The Department of Environmental Protection split off from the Department of Public Health and moved to Springfield. The vacated space was given to the University. The remaining DPH space in Amherst is shared by the Drug Lab, the Immunization Program, an Epidemiologist, a DPH Nurse and a Division of Food and Drugs Inspector. UMass provides custodial service, building maintenance, security, environmental health and safety services, utilities and toxic waste disposal at no cost to DPH.

On a number of occasions the University has asked DPH to vacate the Amherst Public Health Center. This space is actually controlled by the State Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance which has refused to allow UMass to take over the space without DPH cooperation. Presently the University is proposing to supply an alternative space in another building on the edge of campus. No action on this offer has been taken by DPH at this time. UMass has not offered to bear costs of designing and installing infrastructure needed for a new laboratory. There are also issues of guaranteeing the right to long term occupancy of a new space should DPH decide to relinquish space it already controls.